(a) whether the incidents of crime in various trains particularly Express trains, have increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any strategy to check crimes in the trains; and

(d) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Available information in regard to incidents of crime in running trains, including Express trains, during the years 1997 and 1998 is given below:—

Sl. No.	Crime Head	1997	1998
1.	Robbery in running trains	178	254
2.	Dacoity in running trains	72	109
3.	Professional poisoning in running trains	296	302
4.	Murder in running trains	11	22
5.	Theft of Mail in trains	48	51
6.	Sabotage on railways-explosion on rail track causing derailment and disrupting railway traffic	8	8
7.	Fraudulent diversion of railway wagons securing release of goods on bogus RRs, bogus parcel brokers at railway stations.	0	0
8.	Cases of wagon breaking, pilferage, etc.	0	0

The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in running trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP), which functions under the control of the respective State Governments. However, the Central Government has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of passengers and their belongings during train journeys. The measures suggested by the Central Government include, inter alia, the need for regular meetings between the GRP and the Railway Protection Force (RPF), posting of mobile police force in running trains, improvement in coordination between the police escorts and the railway staff, removal of unauthorised hawkers, urchins and other undesirable elements, prompt registration of cases at the first place of reporting, investigation of cases of dacoity and robbery by State CID, maintenance of records of gangs and criminals involved in robberies/dacoities in trains, systematic analysis of crimes in trains, etc. The Railway administration has also taken steps to assist the GRP in checking criminal activities in running trains. These include sharing of intelligence between the RPF and the GRP, introduction of instant action groups in superfast trains to prevent entry of unauthorised persons, assistance by the RPF in escorting passenger trains during night, joint strategy involving the RPF and the GRP to deal with anti-social elements operating in trains, etc.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Revised Note of Royalty on Coal

2326. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the rate of royalty on coal for the block-period 1995-2000.;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some proposals in this regard have been received from Maharashtra, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) The rates of royalty on coal were last revised on 11.10.94. In terms of the proviso to section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government is empowered to enhance royalty rates on coal not more than once during any period of three years. There is no compulsion to revise the royalty rates on coal every three years. The Central Government has the option to keep the royalty rates on coal unchanged as was done during 1981—91.

The Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have represented for enhancement in the current rates of royalty on coal fixed on 11.10.94.

The existing average royalty rate on coal in India is one of the highest in the World. There has been a steep increase in consumption of imported coal in the recent years. Even though the cost of Indian coal is much lower than the cost of imported coal, high freight charges and a high royalty levy have diminished the competitiveness of domestic coal within the country vis-a-vis imported coal. This perspective will be kept in view while taking a decision in the matter of any further increase in the existing rates of coal royalty.

सी॰ आई॰ एल॰ द्वारा मशीनों और उपकरणों का आयात किया जाना

2327. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कोल इंडिया लि॰ की विभिन्न कंपनियों द्वारा वर्ष 1996-97 से 1998-99 तक प्रतिवर्ष कोयला खनन और परिवहन हेतु आयात की गई मशीनों और उपकरणों का कुल मूल्य कितना है;

(ख) कितनी-कितनी आयातित मशीनें और उपकरण किन-किन कंपनियों को उपलब्ध कराए गए;

(ग) 28 फरवरी, 1999 तक कौन-कौन सी मशीनों और उपकरणों का उपयोग आरंभ नहीं किया गया; और

(घ) अनावश्यक आयात के क्या कारण हैं और इसके लिए जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) वर्ष 1996-97 से 1998-99 तक के दौरान कोल इंडिया लि॰ द्वारा आयातित उपकरण और मशीन (प्रस्तुत आर्डर सहित) की कुल कीमत का ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

वर्ष	राशि (लाख रु॰ में)
1996-97	2363.32
1997-98	8802.81
1998-99	102538.16 (विश्व बैंक सहित)

(ख) और (ग) इस संबंध में विवरण निम्न है:—

कंपनी	उन उपकरणों की संख्या, जिन्हें आयात किया जाना है और जिनके लिए आर्डर दिए गए हैं।	अब तक उपकरण की सं.	उपयोग में आने वाले उपकारण की संख्या	चालू किए जाने वाले उपकरण की संख्या
1996-97				
म॰को॰लि॰	5	1	1	शून्य
ई॰को॰लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
सा॰ई॰को॰लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
1997-98				
ना॰ को॰ लि॰	4	4	4	शून्य
म॰ को॰ लि॰	18	18	18	शून्य
ई॰ को॰ लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
सा॰ ई॰ को॰ लि॰	1	1	1	शून्य
से॰ को॰ लि॰	2	2	2	शून्य
वे॰ को॰ लि॰	2	2	2	शून्य
1998-99				
ना॰ को॰ लि॰	151	17	शून्य	17
सा॰ ई॰ को॰ लि॰	101	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
से॰ को॰ लि॰	13	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
म॰ को॰ लि॰	15	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
वे॰ को॰ लि॰	9	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य
भा॰ को॰ को॰ लि॰	7	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य

(घ) इस संबंध में कोई अनावश्यक आयात नहीं किए गए हैं।

Securitising of Coal dues by CIL

2328. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government allowed CIL to securitise over Rs. 4000 crores of coal dues lying with the SEBs;

(b) whether seven months have passed but the scheme could not take off as the Finance Ministry was unable to decide the onus of the interest burden on the securities; and